

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) A method for the production of a work piece by the successive compacting, by means of electromagnetic radiation or particle radiation, of powdered starting material that has been applied horizontally in layers, so that each layer consisting of at least one trace comprises two substantially vertical lateral faces and one substantially horizontal upper face which, in turn, forms the basis for a possible subsequent layer, wherein at least one of the two vertical side walls is subject to mechanical finishing subsequent to the compacting of said powdered starting material that has been applied horizontally in layers, and wherein the work piece to be formed is surrounded by said powdered starting material during its production and during the mechanical finishing, wherein the mechanical finishing of a vertical side wall of an n^{th} layer is performed after the generation of an $n + x^{\text{th}}$ layer only and wherein mechanical finishing of the $n + x^{\text{th}}$ layer is not performed at the same time as mechanical finishing of the n^{th} layer.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one further layer has been produced between the production of the n^{th} layer and the beginning of the mechanical finishing of this layer.

3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein several layers are finished simultaneously.

4. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein several layers are comprised to form layer packages.
5. (original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the mechanical finishing of the $n-1^{\text{st}}$ layer package is started after the generation of an n^{th} layer package.
6. (cancelled)
7. (new) A method for the production of a work piece comprising the steps of:
 - providing at least one first horizontal layer of powdered starting material;
 - compacting, by means of electromagnetic radiation or particle radiation, the at least one first horizontal layer of powdered starting material to form at least one first trace, each trace comprising two substantially vertical lateral faces surrounded by the powdered starting material;
 - providing at least one second horizontal layer of powdered starting material;
 - compacting, by means of electromagnetic radiation or particle radiation, the at least one second horizontal layer of powdered starting material to form at least one second trace, each trace comprising two substantially vertical lateral faces surrounded by the powdered starting material; and
 - mechanically finishing at least one of the two vertical side walls of the at least one first trace, but no side walls of the at least one second trace, while the at least one first trace is still surrounded by the powdered starting material.
8. (new) The method of Claim 7 further comprising the steps of:
 - providing at least one third horizontal layer of powdered starting material;
 - compacting, by means of electromagnetic radiation or particle radiation, the at least one third horizontal layer of powdered starting material to form at least one

third trace, each trace comprising two substantially vertical lateral faces surrounded by the powdered starting material; and

mechanically finishing at least one of the two vertical side walls of the at least one second trace, but no side walls of the at least one third trace, while the at least one second trace is still surrounded by the powdered starting material.